

Our Lady & St Edmund of Abingdon

1 Radley Rd, Abingdon on Thames, Oxon, OX14 3PL

We are a **LiveSimply** parish aiming to live Simply, Sustainably and in Solidarity with the Poor

Parish Priest: Fr. Jamie McGrath Tel: 01235 520375
Parish Secretary: Lisa Paterson Tel: 01235 520375
Office Hours: 8.15am - 12.15pm Tuesday to Friday
Office Email: abingdon@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

We live stream all services

Safeguarding Team: Tel. 07572 935 230
Visits Oxford Hospitals: Priest/Chaplain 01865 221732
Visits and Help: Society of Vincent de Paul Group, contact via Parish Office
Parish Website: www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk
Primary School: St. Edmund's School, Radley Road, Abingdon, OX14 3PP Tel 521558

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Reg. Charity No 1199568 www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Confessions: Saturdays 11.00 – 11.30am or by appointment

REFLECTION

Today in the Gospel we will hear the words of Christ:
"Unless you repent you will all likewise perish." To repent means to be converted, and conversion is the starting point of every spiritual journey and is a prerequisite for entry into the Kingdom of God. It implies that we recognise the presence of sin in our lives and our world. Some of us may say we have no sins, at least no serious ones in our lives. But what about our sins of omission? What about the good we could do but which we don't do?

It isn't the things you do
it's the things you leave undone,
which give you a little heartache
at the setting of the sun.
The gentle word forgotten,
the letter you didn't write,
the flowers you might have sent,
are your haunting ghosts tonight.
The stone you may have lifted,
out of your brother's way,
the little heart-felt counsel
you were hurried too much to say.
The tender touch of the hand,
the gentle and kindly tone,
which we have no time or thought for,
with troubles enough of our own.

(Adapted from 'The Sin of Omission' by Margaret E Sangster)

PRAYER VOCATIONS

Heavenly Father, I ask for your strength and support as I face the challenges of my vocation. May your grace sustain me through difficulties and obstacles. Give me faith to trust in your plan. Help me to rely on your strength rather than my own. And let your power be made perfect in my weakness (Philip 4:13). God, I seek your strength and courage on my journey. Empower me to face every obstacle with faith, knowing that with your help I can overcome any challenge. Amen.

SECOND (RETIRING) COLLECTION

The retiring collection next **Sunday 30th March** is for the *Clergy Assistance Fund*.

Week 3 of Lent: Cycle 1 (C)

Sunday 23 March

8.45am Mass
10.15am Mass
6.30pm Mass

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

(Castle Family Intentions)
(Paddy In Thanksgiving
18th Birthday)

Monday 24 March

8.30am Rosary
9.00am Mass (Pat Castle RIP)

Tuesday 25 March

Annunciation of the Lord

NO Mass See: www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk/english-martyrs-vale-of-white-horse for other Masses

Wednesday 26 March

6.30pm Rosary
7.00pm Mass (Lisa Paterson Intentions)

Thursday 27 March

9.00am Rosary
9.30am Mass (Mike McKenna RIP)

Friday 28 March

6.00pm Stations of the Cross
6.30pm Rosary
7.00pm Mass

Saturday 29 March

11am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
11-11.30am Confessions
12pm Mass

CIVIC SERVICE

This year the annual Civic Service will be held here at Our Lady & St Edmund today, Sunday 23rd March, at 2pm. We will welcome the Mayor and Town Council. Please do come along to support.

PARISH OFFICE

The Parish Office will be closed on Weds 26th March.

LENT CHARITY FUNDRAISING

We are into the third week of Lent but still need more active fundraising.... **Please** consider ways you could raise money for our Lenten projects, and send your suggestions to the PPC via the parish office. *We do need your help in order to raise funds.* A leaflet with information is available at the back of the church, and there is also a lot of information in the *What's On* section of our parish website, *where you can also make donations.* So far, our *Ash Wednesday Soup Supper* raised £300 and the *Curry Night* has raised £630.42. Thank you to all those who supported these two events.

ST PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

An evening of Irish music, song, dance and food was enjoyed by many on Saturday evening followed by Irish Coffees and cake after mass on Sunday. Thank you to all who organised and supported these events which raised a total of £1,585.00 towards the Lenten projects.

BIG BREAKFAST & PRODUCE SALE

Next **Sunday 30th March** after the 8.45am and 10.15am Masses, there will be an opportunity to enjoy a hot bacon or sausage roll, (vegetarian and vegan choices also available), drinks will also be available. Also, on that day we will hold our **Produce Sale**. Could you bake a cake or other family favourite to sell at our Sale? Biscuits, chutneys, jams, pickles or other preserves or edible goodies will be gratefully received. *Cakes, and other items can be dropped off at the Parish Centre any time after 8.30am on 30th March* – or handed to the helper as you enter the church for Mass.

GOLF DAY – LENTEN PROJECTS FUNDRAISING

We will be holding our annual golf day again this year on **Monday 7th April** at Drayton Park. Once again a big thank you to Mary McKenna for letting us hold the event free of charge and to Ian for all his assistance on the day. We will be meeting up from 9am for tea/coffee and bacon rolls and the first tee time is 10am. There will be the usual format of teams of 4 players with the best two scores to count on each hole. There will be prizes for the best two teams plus three nearest the pin prizes. The cost will be £25 for the day. We usually get terrific support from our golfers for this very worthy event. Please book in with Terry Murphy 07584 248169 or email terry.murphy62@yahoo.co.uk

OPEN DOORS

Open Doors runs on Mondays (except Bank Holidays) in the Parish Centre, currently from 10.30am to 2.30pm. We offer a warm, friendly space, good company, tea/coffee and lunch (served at 12.15pm) to anyone who would like to join us. Do come along - you will be very welcome. We do need volunteers to help at the sessions or to cook lunch. If you can help, please contact Berny Pratt on 01235 525257.

PARISH EVENTS FOR THE WEEK

- **Sunday:** Refreshments in the parish centre after the 10.15am Mass.
- **Monday:** *Open Doors* in the parish centre from 10.30am to 2.30pm.
- **Tuesday:** *JTiF (Journeying Together in Faith)* in the parish centre at 7.30pm.
- **Wednesday:** Charismatic Prayer Meeting (online) 7.45pm. Contact: Mike Oliver, Ab 528528
- **Friday:** Baby & Toddler group in the parish centre 9.30am to 11.15am **in term time.**
- **Friday:** Stations of the Cross at 6pm in the church.

FUTURE DATES

- **Sun 30th March:** Big Breakfast & Home Produce sale.

JUBILEE REFLECTION – TIME FOR RENEWAL

This jubilee year is a time for renewal, reflection, and grace, encouraging Catholics to embark on a journey of faith and transformation, focusing on hope and mercy. The St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) encourages us to reflect on the challenges in our communities and consider how we can act with Christ-like mercy. It's all about looking at the world through a lens of hope and taking action to make things better. The people around us come in all shapes, sizes, backgrounds and with different needs. Pray that the Lord will help us to share His love with those who feel they don't belong or are alone, so that through us and the time, talents and resources given to us, God's transforming love, compassion and concern may be experienced by others.

FAITH IN ACTION GROUP

We will be exploring the theme of "The Unfathomable Mercy of God" through the charism of Sister Faustina, focusing on her prayers, including the Novena and Chaplet of Mercy. Please join us on Friday 28th March at 7.30pm in the parish centre.

VACANCY AT ST EDMUND'S SCHOOL

We are looking for a full-time Key Stage 2 Teacher to join our friendly and efficient team and who would be supportive of our school mission statement and the Catholic ethos of our school. Calls to discuss this position further with our Headteacher, Mrs Erika Kirwan are encouraged and warmly welcomed. Please contact the School on Ab. 521558 to request an application pack.

WE PRAY FOR

- Nancy 'Ann' Walsh. Funeral 25th March at 11am.
- Angela Keat Brown. Funeral 3rd April at 11.30am.